

Revised claims

Version with markings to show changes made.

1. An article of manufacture comprising a vehicle surface care composition in sheet form, wherein the sheet comprises a water soluble substrate.
3. The article of claim [[2]]1 wherein the surface care composition comprises at least one of a cleanser, surfactant, shine promotion agent, and protective agent.
4. The article of claim [[3]]1 wherein the surface care composition comprises an automotive cleanser.
5. The article of claim [[2]]1 wherein the sheet has a side with a surface area between 10 and 200 cm², inclusive.
6. The article of claim [[2]]1 wherein the surface care composition is deposited onto a surface of the water soluble substrate.
7. The article of claim [[2]]1 wherein the surface care composition is impregnated into the water soluble substrate.
8. The article of claim [[2]]1 wherein the surface care composition is in a spray dried, freeze-dried, concentrated, or powdered form.
9. The article of claim [[2]]1 wherein the sheet is colored, or has printing upon at least one of its surfaces.
10. An automotive care product containing the sheet of claim [[2]]1, and instructions for dissolving the sheet in water prior to use.
11. An automotive care product containing a plurality of sheets according to claim [[2]]1, bound together to form a booklet.
12. An automotive care product containing a plurality of sheets according to claim [[2]]1, with perforation between at least two of the sheets.

Novelty

The Office considers claims 1-15 to be anticipated by Cabell et al. (U.S. Patent 5,908,707) (Cabell). The applicant respectfully disagrees, especially in view of the amendments made herein.

“Anticipation under 35 USC § 102 requires the disclosure in a single piece of prior art of each and every limitation of a claimed invention...” *Rockwell International Corp. v. United States*, 147 F.3d 1358, 1363, 47 USPQ2d 1027, 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1998), (emphasis added).

First, Cabell fails to disclose a sheet comprising a “water soluble substrate”. Instead, Cabell teaches a cleaning wipe that comprises water. This is evidenced by the Abstract and other areas of the ‘707 specification that describe the wipes as comprising an emulsion comprising “...a polar (e.g., water) internal phase”. As further evidence, the examiner is referred to column 5, lines 43-45, which states “[S]ince water is generally the preferred polar material used in the present invention...”. A wipe comprising water presumably could not also be water soluble or it would have dissolved. Thus, not only does Cabell fail to disclose all of the elements of claim 1, but it teaches away from a water soluble substrate.

Cabell also fails as an anticipating reference to independent claim 13 because it does not disclose a method of preparing a vehicle surface care composition that includes the step of “placing the sheet into the water”. As discussed above with reference to claim 1, Cabell teaches away from, and fails to disclose, placing the sheet in water.

Obviousness

The Office considers claims 1-15 to lack an inventive step over Hoshino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,376,046) (Hoshino). The applicant disagrees, especially in view of the claim amendments made herein.

Hoshino teaches against a water soluble substrate by teaching that an object of the invention is to provide a cleaning article that exhibits high cleaning power “without using water” (column 1, lines 62-65). The applicant reads this area of the ‘046 specification to mean that the cleaning article does not need to be dissolved in water in order for it to work. Conversely, the article of manufacture of the present application does dissolve in water.

Here again, Hoshino also fails to teach or suggest a step of "placing the sheet into the water" as is required by independent claim 13.

Conclusion

Neither of the references, either alone or in combination disclose, teach, or suggest all of the claim limitations of the independent claims. Therefore, the applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Fessenmaier", is written over a horizontal line.

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